

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-2, 4-9 and 11-20 remain pending in the application. Claims 3 and 10 have been cancelled. Claim 1 has included all elements of claim 3. Claim 15 has been amended to clarify the claimed invention and to add a limitation of virtual hard disk device icon which is supported in the specification.

Claims 1-5, 9-11, 15, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Camara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,507). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The claimed invention is directed to a system and method for a scanner to execute scanning processes under control of a virtual storage device. First, when the driver of the present invention is installed, a virtual storage device (a virtual hard disk icon E:) is presented in the file management interface of the operating system (see the steps 31 and 32 of the specification and in Figure 3, and further shown the virtual hard disk device icon 41 in Figure 4). While the scanner conducts the scanning, the scanned image file was saved in a hard disk but as presented in the virtual hard disk device (scanner E: as shown in Figure 4, legend 41). The user of local computer can drag and drop the file in the virtual hard disk directly to the e-mail program, or saved as other location/directory of the physical hard disk, or employed in an instance chatting program. Furthermore, the virtual hard disk device can set to be accessible by other on-line users via network connection. Therefore, the virtual hard disk device icon will be shown to the allowed user over the network.

Camara et al. is directed to a system for presenting a scanner to an icon on the interface of an operating system. In this case, the user can click on the scanner device icon for initiating the scanner without starting the scanner by the driver or utility, thereby providing convenience to users. Particularly, as seen in column 4, lines 46-58 and shown in Figure 4, when the "Imaging Device" window is activated, the lists of the imaging devices which have been installed on the computer will be shown (see col. 4, lines 47-48). Furthermore, the local scanner devices will be listed in the "My Scanner" dialogue window and the remote scanner devices will be listed as in the "Jack's Scanner" dialogue window, for example (see col. 4, lines 52-53). However, Camara et al. do not show or teach the virtual hard disk device or virtual hard disk device icon for locating the scanned image

data files as in the applicant's invention. The scanner device icon of Camara et al. is a scanning device icon rather than a storage device icon. The scanned image data files of Camara et al. are saved in the physical hard disk and presented in "My Pictures" folder which is the common utilization of Windows operating systems (see col. 6, Table 1). In Camara et al., the scanned image data file is not saved in a virtual hard disk device (as Scanner E: of the present invention, shown in Figure 4).

In view of the above, Camara et al. do not teach or disclose the claimed invention as claimed in amended claims 1, 9 and 15. Particularly, "a virtual hardware module having a virtual storage device . . ." as recited in the amended claim 1, "said scanner and displayed as a virtual storage device icon in an operating system . . ." as recited in the original claim 9, and "displaying a virtual hardware icon as virtual storage device icon . . ." as recited in the amended claim 15 are not disclosed, taught or suggested by Camara et al. Therefore, the currently amended claims 1 and 15 and the original claim 9 are not anticipated by Camara et al. and are patentable over Camara et al. The rejection of independent claims 1, 9 and 15 should be withdrawn.

Claims 2, 4-5, 10-11 and 19 are patentable over Camara et al. for the reasons discussed above with respect to independent claims 1, 9 and 15 as well as on their own merits.

Claims 6-8, 12-14 and 16-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Camara et al. These claims are patentable because of their dependency on the independent claim 1, 9 and 15 which are patentable over Camara et al. for the reasons discussed above as well as on their own merits.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including

extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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